any ſuch ſort, as they ſay) but in the way of honeſty : and I warrant you, they could neuer get her ſo much as ſippe on a cup with the prowdeſt of them all, and yet there has beene Earles ; nay, (which is more) Pentioners, but I warrant you all is one with her.

Fal. But what ſaies ſhee to mee? bee briefe my good ſhee-*Mercurie.*

Qui. Marry, ſhe hath receiu'd your Letter; for the which ſhe thankes you a thouſand times; and ſhee giues you to notifie, that her husband will be abſence from his houſe, betweene ten and eleuen.

Fal. Ten, and eleuen.

Qui. I, forſooth; and then you may come and ſee the picture (ſhe ſayes) that you wot of; Maſter *Ford* her husband will be from home: alas, the ſweet woman leads an ill life with him; hee's a very iealouſie-man; ſhee leades a vere framepold life with him, (good heart.)

Fal. Ten, and eleuen.
Woman, commend me to her, I will not faile her.

Qui. Why, you ſay well: But I haue another meſſenger to your worſhip: Miſtreſſe *Page* hath her heartie commendations to you to; and let me tell you in your eare, ſhee's as fartuous a ciuill modeſt wife, and one (I tell you) that will not miſſe you morning nor euening prayer, as any is in *Windſor*, who ere be the other: and ſhee bade mee tell your worſhip, that her husband is ſeldome from home, but ſhee hopes there will come a time. I neuer knew a woman ſo doate vpon a man; ſurely I thinke you haue charmes, la: yes in truth.

Fal. Not I, I aſſure thee; ſetting the attraction of my good parts aſide, I haue no other charmes.

Qui. Bleſſing on your heart for't.

Fal. But I pray thee tell me this; has *Fords* wife, and *Pages* wife acquainted each other, how they loue me?

Qui. That were a ieſt indeed: they haue not ſo little grace I hope, that were a tricke indeed: But Miſtis *Page* would deſire you to ſend her your little *Page* of all loues; her husband has a maruellous infection to the little Page;

and

and truely Maſter *Page* is an h
Windſor leades a better life then
ſay what ſhe will, take all, pay
riſe when ſhe liſt, all is as ſhe w
for if there be a kinde woman
muſt ſend her your Page, no r

Fal. Why, I will.

Qui. Nay, but doe ſo then, a
and goe betweene you both ;
word, that you may know on
Boy neuer heede to vnderſtand
that children ſhould know
you know, haue diſcretion;
world.

Fal. Farethee-well, commen
my purſe, I am yet thy debter ;
woman, this newes diſtracts m

Piſt. This Puncke is one of
Clap ho more ſailes, purſue-vp
Giue fire; ſhe is my prize, or O

Fal. Saiſt thou ſo (old *Jack*
more of thy old body then
looke after thee? wilt thou aft
money, be now a gainer? good
them ſay 'tis groſſely done, ſo
ma ter.

Bar. Sir *Iohn*, there's one M
faine ſpeake with you, and be
hath ſent your worſhip a morni

Fal. Broome is his name?

Bar. I Sir.

Fal. Call him in: ſuch *Broom*
that ore'flowes ſuch liquor; ah
ſtreſſe *Page*, haue I encompaſs'd

Ford. Bleſſe you ſir.

Fal. And you ſir; would you

Ford. I make bold, to preſſe
vpon you.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merry Wives of Windsor* (STC 22301) LONDON, 1630 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH